

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN. BIBLIOPHONA.

BY REV. WILLIAM ALVIN BARTLETT. Religion, suspicion, skepticism, are virtues in an age of credulity and autoerotic religion. Religion is our best definition of some characters and things; just as Belshazzar allowed the Sphinx to assert himself by shoveling away the sand of centuries which had drifted him out of sight. But can as positive a being as a man, who acts on faith every instant, be satisfied with a religion of mere negations? Do criticisms of the human mistakes which cloud all religions furnish a better faith? We do not expect the foaming and empirical musical critic to step upon the stage and perfect the rendition which he deprecates. And yet religion is so vital a thing to the individual that we have a right to expect from the religious critic a substitute better than the imperfect matter he turns down. A grumbler is a very useless individual. Luther did not stop with a simple protest against Papal abuses. He translated the Testament and set up a positive faith. He denied Papal infallibility. He asserted individual judgment. The power of the Reformation was lodged in this. Positivism is a metaphysical necessity and a demand of fact. The last years have been from all quarters a protest against religious abuses—against hyper-Puritanism; against unreasonable dogma; against false and partial and partisan Scripture interpretation; against the startling immoralities which have sheltered in exegesis and under infallible creeds.

valuation through the offices of the Episcopal Church are as well off in her as they can be in any Church. 3. The Episcopal Church is excellent in her provisions for Christian education and plans drill. Churches that avowedly receive very young infants as members must necessarily provide education for these accepted children. Accordingly the Episcopal Church is characteristically a Church for the training of children, just as some sister Churches are characteristically revival Churches for the conversion of grown folks. In the Prayer Book and Church Almanac you find the Christian year divided into periods separated by high-days—monuments and memorials of Christian story. This Christian calendar agrees very nearly with that of the Roman Church. And he is an unlearned well-informed Christian who can read over this catalogue of days, and in few words tell the story that each day celebrates! But a birthright churchman who has been quietly trained in a teaching home for fifteen years will need very little further more. In connection with this calendar is a system of lessons in following which the reader is led through the entire Bible each year, and through its more profitable parts, monthly or oftener. He who for years has been a churchman, and yet remained ungrounded in Scripture, may find himself an unworthy son of a very faithful mother.

—The new Episcopal Church at West Chester, just completed, cost about \$28,000. —The "Churchman's Year Book" contains the names of 51 Episcopal bishops and 3541 clergymen. —Bishop Davis, of South Carolina, is totally blind. He performs the offices of the church from memory. —On the 24th ult., Rev. John Murray Forbes, D. D., was installed as Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York. —On the 23d of February Washington's Farewell Address was read in Trinity Church, New York. It is not in the Prayer-book. —The Episcopalians have a "Clergyman's Mutual Insurance League," numbering 529 members. On the death of any member his brethren each send two dollars to the heirs. The second death lately occurred, and the entire amount was forwarded within a month. —The American Churchman, of Chicago, notices "with regret" that an Episcopal "Home" in Milwaukee is down for \$500 in the list of appropriations by the "charitable" committee of the Wisconsin Legislature. It believes that Romanism ought to have a monopoly of this sort of thing. —The Episcopalians now have associations organized to represent every shade of opinion. The Latimer Association represents the Revisionists, the Church Union the Ritualists, the Evangelical Union the Low Church party, and the Conservative Church Union the Moderate High-Churchmen. —Rev. Mr. Bellaw, an Episcopal clergyman of England, has produced Hamlet in St. George's Hall, London, with fine scenery and costumes, but with silent pantomime. Mr. Bellaw does all the speaking, and his powers as an actor are much commended; but complaint is to be made to the bishop against him. He is the man who trained Fechter, the English player of "Hamlet," now in this country. —Bishop Doane made a long statement in the Upper House of Convocation, in which he defends his position in taking part in the "Essays and Reviews." He "retracts nothing." He "condemns nothing." In future editions his essay will be signed as by Frederick Temple, and not as by the Bishop of Exeter. The Bishop of Gloucester writes to the Times that his speech received the only answer that could be given—"sorrowful and rebukeful silence." He and others are now "distressed and shocked beyond words." The most distressing part of the controversy, at least for the present, "continued doubt and estrangement." —In Mobile, Rev. Dr. Pierce was recently consecrated as Missionary Bishop of Arkansas. The Mobile Register gives a full account of the proceedings, which were of a somewhat novel character. "All the reverend and right reverend personages were in the full canonicals of their respective orders, several of them being distinguished by their hoods." The Bishops of Mississippi and Illinois appeared in the role of Doctors Divinitary, with their hoods and black Bishop Quintard was a Doctor of Laws of the University of Cambridge, with a scarlet and pink hood, while two Masters of Art of Oxford and Cambridge wore the plainer black and white. The services gave much satisfaction to the crowd of spectators, and the young, who had "efficiently, patiently, and dexterously managed" the arrangements for the ceremonial. —The Rev. William Fulton, of Indiana, in this State, has received a unanimous call to the Fourth United Presbyterian Church of Allegheny City. —The New Providence church in Rockbridge county, Virginia, has had three pastors in one hundred years. It was served for seventy-five years by the Rev. Samuel Brown and his son-in-law, the Rev. James Morrison. —The Rev. J. J. Sulzick, D. D., now pastor of Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland, has received and accepted a call to the Presbyterian church in Alexandria, Virginia. —The Second United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, contributed something over four thousand dollars for the cause of missions. This is said to be the largest sum reported from any church of this body in this city. —The Cumberland Presbyterians are introducing the custom of licensing colored preachers to preach "among people of their own color." The Cumberland Presbyterian denomination practices as unchristian and unauthorized by the Bible, Confession, or form of government. —The Presbyterians of San Francisco have been holding enthusiastic meetings to promote the subject of church extension. The committee report that the Philadelphia method of planting churches should be adopted, while the New York method of establishing missions as feeders to the parent church is characterized as impolitic as well as rash. —The ladies' movement to pay the \$60,000 debt of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Washington city, D. C., has resulted already in the receipt of \$10,000. —The Methodists in New York report 182,955 members, of whom 156,577 are in full membership. The Presbyterians have 109,393 members, the Baptists 97,703, the Episcopalians 63,047, and the Congregationalists 25,448. During the last nine years Methodism in this State has increased ten per cent. in membership, twenty-three per cent. in churches, fifty-one per cent. in parsonages, five per cent. in Sabbath-schools, fifteen per cent. in Sunday-school teachers, thirty-seven per cent. in Sunday-school scholars, one hundred and forty per cent. in the value of church edifices, and one hundred and sixty-four per cent. in the value of parsonages. —The New Orleans Christian Advocate publishes a full what purports to be the constitution of an American Independent Catholic Church. It is not explained how this document came into its possession; but it vouches for it as genuine and as issued by 47 regular American Catholic priests. The most important points about it are that the Pope is not recognized as supreme, but only as primus inter pares; that confession and celibacy, though good and excellent in themselves, are not obligatory; that no monastic vows shall be made for over five years, though it may be repeated over and over; that the effort be made to "harmonize, as far as possible, with all Christian denominations, especially with the Catholics of the old rite and the members of the Episcopal Church," with whom they are at one, except in some "few insignificant rites." The remaining articles are mainly devoted to checking the extreme power of bishops over the

SPECIAL NOTICES. ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS. SHERIDAN'S RIDE. LIFE-SIZE PAINTING BY THE PORT ARTIST, T. HUGHAN READ. SECOND WEEK OF THE EXHIBITION. GALLERIES THROUGED DAY AND EVENING. GREAT NATIONAL WORK OF ART. "WITH GREAT AND WITH DUST, THE BLACK AND GREY WAS GREY." BY THE FLASH OF HIS EYES, AND THE RED NOSTRILS' PLAY. HE SEEMED TO THE WHOLE GREAT ARMY TO SAY— "HAVE I BROUGHT YOU SHERIDAN'S RIDE TO YOU?" FROM WINCHESTER DOWN TO SAVE THE DAY!

THE FINE ARTS. "THE NINE MUSES" Have Been Retained on Exhibition EARLES' GALLERIES, No. 816 CHESTNUT STREET, FOR A FEW DAYS LONGER. C. F. HASELTINE'S Galleries of the Arts, No. 1125 CHESTNUT STREET. THE AUTOTYPES AND LANDSCAPES HAVE ARRIVED. NEW CHROMOS. JAMES S. EARLE & SONS, NEW ENGLANDS AND NEW CHROMOS, Are in constant receipt of large numbers of A few of which are as follows: Little Eva.....after J. G. Brown. Innocence.....after J. G. Brown. Why Don't He Come? (companion).....after J. G. Brown. Christmas Memories.....after A. J. H. Way. The First Lesson in Music.....after Leitch. Past and Present.....after Mrs. Anderson. Wide Awake.....after Mrs. Anderson. The Queen of the Woods.....after J. G. Brown. Little Bo-Peep.....after J. G. Brown. Family Scene in Pompey.....after G. Brown. Dotty Dimple.....after Mrs. Murray. The Monday in Winter.....after Jacobson. A Wet Sheet and a Flowing Sea.....after De Haas. Sunset on the Coast.....after De Haas. The Lanchester Life-boat.....after E. Moran. To Samite Valley.....after Thomas Hill. The Birthplace of Whittier.....after Thomas Hill. The largest collection in the country at the very lowest prices. SEWING MACHINES. THE AMERICAN Combination Button-Hole AND SEWING MACHINE. It is now admitted to be far superior to all others as a Family Machine. THE SIMPLICITY, EASE and CERTAINTY with which it operates, as well as the uniform excellence of its work, throughout the entire range of sewing, in

DRY GOODS. SHEPPARD, VAN HARLINGEN & ARRISON, No. 1008 CHESTNUT Street, Will continue the sale of their LARGE STOCK OF FINE GOODS, at EXTRAORDINARILY LOW PRICES. Making a difference of about 35% PER CENT. from former prices, being more than equal to the GREAT DECLINE IN GOLD. Our old stock we are selling rapidly, and NEW GOODS are BEING RECEIVED DAILY, so that our Store shall continue to present to buyers the GREATEST POSSIBLE ATTRACTIONS AND BARGAINS, in all descriptions of Shirting and Fronting Linens, Table Cloths, Table Linens, Napkins, Doilies, Of entirely new and elegant patterns. Towels and Towellings of every description, Marseilles Quilts, AND ALL VARIETIES OF House-furnishing Dry Goods. FURNITURE COVERINGS, CRATONNES, AND CHINTIZES. TABLE AND PIANO COVERS. REAL LACE AND NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS, CURTAIN MATERIALS AND UPHOLSTERY GOODS. ALSO, An unusually large and attractive stock of FIRST-CLASS WHITE GOODS, PIQUES, TIES, HDKFS, and STAPLE EMBROIDERIES. No. 1008 CHESTNUT Street, PHILADELPHIA. 32 1/2 W 10th St. 1853 17th ANNIVERSARY, 1870 THURSDAY, MARCH 10. (Seventeen Years on Spring Garden Street.) Dry Goods Unprecedentedly Cheap. "THORNLEY'S," Cor. EIGHTH and SPRING GARDEN We have now a most complete stock of Seasonable and Desirable Goods, bought cheap and selling cheap. SUPERLATIVE BLACK SILKS. BEAUTIFUL SILK POPLINS. EXCEEDINGLY HIGH FRENCH CHINTIZES. BARSBY AND POWER-LOOM TABLE LAINES, WHITE PIQUES, PLAIN MUSLINS, BEST BIRD GLOVES, CASSIMERES, FLANELS, MARSEILLES QUILTS, Etc. Etc. If ladies desire to shop pleasantly and economically, they will come direct to our store. If from a distance, they can ride to the door, and will save car hire in the smallest purchase. All goods, delivered free of charge, promptly and carefully. JOSEPH H. THORNLEY, N. E. CORNER OF EIGHTH and SPRING GARDEN Sts., 23 1/2 W 10th PHILADELPHIA. 1870. DRY GOODS. 1870. EYRE & LANDELL, FOURTH AND ARCH, ARE OPENING TO-DAY FOR SPRING SALES, SPLENDID FRENCH CHINTIZES, PERALS ROBES, THREE FLOUNCES, RICH SPRING PERALS, GORGANDY LAIN ROBES, JAPANESE FIGURED SILKS, JAPANESE FLAIN SILKS, NEAT STRIPED AND FIGURED SILKS, NEW STOCK OF FLAIN SILKS, BEST BLACK SILKS & C. FABRIE LONG AND SQUARE SHAWLS, LAMA POINTS AND JACKETS, 12 1/2 W 10th St. MARK ANTOINETTES AND FIGURES. STOKES & WOOD, S. W. COR. SEVENTH AND ARCH STS., Are now opening a good assortment of DRY GOODS for the coming season. Neat Striped and Plaid Silks, good quality, \$1.00 and \$1.25 Pearl and Mode Colored Wool and Silk and Wool Poplins. Black and White and Green and White Striped Poplins for Suits, 37 1/2 cents. Mode Poplins for Suits, in variety. Black Alpaca, Alpaca Poplins and Merinos, best goods. Black Silks of the best makes, at reduced prices. Plain Muslins, from 25 cents up. New designs in Chintizes received daily. J. W. PROCTOR & CO., SPECIAL NOTICE. CONTINUATION OF SALE. Balance of Stock remaining on hand will be sold at Retail. The whole of the stock is now on the first floor. Retail Bargains may be expected. STORE NOW OPEN. Business Hours, Mirrors, about 70 Walnut Frames with Glasses in for hanging in Hotels, Patent apparatus for Hanging Fans from one to five inches. MRS. R. DILLON, NOS. 328 and 311 SOUTH STREET, has a large assortment of FINE MILLINERY for Ladies and Misses, Ribbons, Satins, Silks, Velvets and Volensons, Crapes, Feathers, Flowers, Frames, Sash Ribbons, Ornaments, Mourning Millinery, Orsop Veils, etc. 144 DYEING AND SOORING. JOSEPH H. TET, 1212 N. 22d St. FRENCH STEAM DYEING AND SOORING, On any kind of Wearing Apparel, for Ladies, Gents, and Children. Patent apparatus for Hanging Fans from one to five inches. No. 22 E. NINTH Street, Philadelphia. COTTON SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS, Of all numbers and brands. Test, Awning, Trank, Wash-covers, Duck, Aso, Paper Millinery, Ladies' Dress, Felt, from three to seventy-six inches, with Buttons, Belting, Sail Twine, etc. JOHN W. EVERMAN, 101 CHURCH Street (City Store). JOHN FARNUM & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS and Manufacturers of Connecticut Ticking, etc. No. 68 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia. 41 W 10th

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

EPISCOPAL.

—The new Episcopal Church at West Chester, just completed, cost about \$28,000. —The "Churchman's Year Book" contains the names of 51 Episcopal bishops and 3541 clergymen.

MORAVIAN.

—The Moravians of the United States are divided into two provinces, one in the Northern and the other in the Southern States. The statistics of the Northern Province have just been published, from which we learn that it contains but 52 churches, having 5970 communicants (an increase of 200), 892 non-communicants, 3010 children, and 5044 Sabbath School scholars.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

—The American Academy of Music, under the patronage of the Hon. Seward, has just opened its doors for the season. It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from all injurious ingredients. It preserves and whitens the Teeth. Invigorates and purifies the Gums. Purifies and Perfumes the Breath. Prevents Accumulation of Tartar. Is a Superior Article for Children. Sold by all druggists and dentists.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

—The Directors have this day declared a dividend of SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per Share on the Stock of the Company for the last six months, which will be paid to the Stockholders or their legal representatives on the 15th instant.

THE AMERICAN SEWING MACHINE.

It is now admitted to be far superior to all others as a Family Machine. THE SIMPLICITY, EASE and CERTAINTY with which it operates, as well as the uniform excellence of its work, throughout the entire range of sewing, in

EPISCOPAL.

—The new Episcopal Church at West Chester, just completed, cost about \$28,000.

MORAVIAN.

—The Moravians of the United States are divided into two provinces, one in the Northern and the other in the Southern States.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

—The American Academy of Music, under the patronage of the Hon. Seward, has just opened its doors for the season.

THE AMERICAN SEWING MACHINE.

It is now admitted to be far superior to all others as a Family Machine.

THE AMERICAN SEWING MACHINE.

It is now admitted to be far superior to all others as a Family Machine.